

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00311 062005Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05

SAM-01 /095 W

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P R 061630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE ASHDC PRIORITY 3808

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, EG, MO, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: ARAB MEDIATION; RYDBECK MISSION

1. MEDIA HAVE REFRAINED FROM FURTHER DIRECT COMMENT ON ARAB MEDIATION EFFORT IN GENERAL AND ON MUBARAK SHUTTLE IN PARTICULAR. FLN'S EL MOUDJAHID CONFINES ITSELF TO WONDERING HOW "QUESTIONS CAN BE ASKED, PARTICULARLY IN MASHRIQ" AS TO WHY ALGERIA, GIVEN ITS LACK OF TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS IN SAHARA, SHOULD OPPOSE "MOROCCAN-NESS OF TERRITORY". "MOROCCAN-NESS OF SAHARA IF IT EXISTS, MUST BE DECIDED BY ALL ITS INHABITANTS", PAPER ASSERTS.

2. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MUBARAK SHUTTLE IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEB 6. LITTLE ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION, EGYPTIAN SAID, AND JALLUD'S TWO APPEARANCES HERE DURING SHUTTLE LEFT STRONG IM-
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00311 062005Z

PRESSION THAT ALGERIA CONSIDERING MORE MILITANT OPTION.

EGYPTIAN DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE ALGERIAN-LIBYAN UNITY ANNOUNCEMENT; UNITY NOT SORT OF THING BOUMEDIENE WOULD RUSH INTO. HOWEVER, MILITARY COOPERATION ON BASIS OF HASSI MESSAOUD DECISIONS LIKELY. IN THIS CONNECTION, EGYPTIAN EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT TWELVE LIBYAN MIRAGES WERE IN ALGERIA. EGYPTIAN HOPED THAT SAHARA CONTROVERSY COULD BE SETTLED IN ARAB, RATHER THAN UN, CONTEXT.

3. REFERRING TO ADMIRAL TURNER'S MEETING WITH KING HASSAN, AND TO OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS RE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO, EGYPTIAN WONDERED IF WE HAVE OPTED FOR MOROCCO IN SAHARA STRUGGLE. EMBOFF DENIED THAT WE HAD, CITING LONG-STANDING NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCANS, ETC.

4. RYDBECK MISSION: MEDIA HERE FEB 6 CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT RYDBECK HAS REAFFIRMED SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE FOR SAHARA. THUS, IN MEDIA'S VIEWS, "SAHARA FILE REMAINS OPEN," DESPITE MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO DIVERT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION FROM PROBLEM AND TO CHARACTERIZE RYDBECK MISSION AS FACT FINDING TRIP. ARAB INITIATIVE AND "GOOD OFFICES" OFFERED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS CANNOT, IN MEDIA'S VIEW, CHANGE UN'S CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROBLEM.

5. NO REACTION HERE YET TO REPORTED RABAT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MOROCCAN ARMY HAS OCCUPIED TIFARITI IN EASTERN SAHARA WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY OPPOSITION. LYNE

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